



FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND

To slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) into Pennsylvania, the Department of Health (DOH) is working with local public health partners to implement after-travel health precautions. There are currently four countries that have a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. Additional countries may be added as the global situation continues to evolve. An updated list of countries can be found [here](#)

It is important to call **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room after coming back from traveling. If you get sick with fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), cough, or have trouble breathing, seek medical care; tell your doctor about your recent travel and your symptoms, avoid contact with others. If you need medical care for other reasons, call ahead to **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** and to your doctor and tell them about your recent travel to an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19.

WHAT SHOULD SCHOOLS DO?

If a student, teacher or faculty member have returned from [Iran](#) or [China](#):

1. The health department will be alerted by CDC and will contact the individual(s)
2. Stay home and self-isolate yourself for 14 days after travel

If a student, teacher or faculty member have returned from [Italy](#) or [South Korea](#):

1. They need to call **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** to let the health department know about their travel
2. Stay home and self-isolate yourself for 14 days after travel

Any travelers returning from Iran, China, Italy and South Korea should self-monitor for symptoms like fever, cough, or trouble breathing. If you become sick, call **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** and the doctor's office or emergency room before visiting.

For information on how to self-monitor and practice social distancing, visit <http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus%20Travelers.aspx>

WHAT IF WE HAVE A STUDENT WHOSE HEALTH IS BEING MONITORED?

If a student becomes a patient under investigation, schools should continue to follow usual procedures for notification of parents/guardians whose children are ill at school. Schools should also work with their local health department regarding notification.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The department encourages schools to increase education on ways to protect yourself from illnesses such as the cold, flu and also the coronavirus:

- **Wash** hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **Cover** any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, do not use your hands!
- **Clean** surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, cell phones and other frequently touched areas.
- **Contain-** if you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit <http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

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Guidance for schools which do not have COVID-19 identified in their community.

To prepare for possible community transmission of COVID-19, the most important thing for schools to do now is plan and prepare. As the global outbreak evolves, schools should prepare for the possibility of community-level outbreaks. Schools want to be ready if COVID-19 does appear in their communities.

- Review, update, and implement emergency operations plans
- Develop information-sharing systems with partners
- Monitor and plan for absenteeism
- Establish procedures for students and staff who are sick at school
- Perform routine environmental cleaning
- Create communications plans for use with the school community
- Review CDC's guidance for business and employers

Ensure your plan emphasizes common-sense preventative actions for students and staff. I.E. staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and washing hands often.

Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

-More Information on the Coronavirus Disease

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

-Germ Prevention Strategies

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/prevention/Pages/Germ-Prevention-Strategies.aspx>

-Reducing the Spread of Illness in Childcare Settings

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/prevention/Pages/Prevention-In-Child-Care-or-School.aspx>

-What to do if you are sick with the coronavirus disease

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>

- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

-Frequently asked Questions for Students who plan to travel or have recently traveled

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>